

**REMARKS**

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application.

Claims 1-24 are now present in this application. Claim 1 is independent.

Claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

**Request for Entry of Response After Final Rejection**

This response should be entered after final rejection because, as explained below, the combination of Ruckl with Beyer or Klein does not render the claims unpatentable.

In the event that this Amendment does not place this application into condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to enter this Amendment because it places the application into better condition for appeal.

**Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103**

Claims 1, 2 and 9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruckl in view of Beyer et al. or Klein. Further, claims 3-6 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruckl in view of Beyer et al. or Klein and further in view of Urlichhs, and claim 7 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ruckl in view of Beyer et al. or Klein and further in view of Rinaldi. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Complete discussions of the Examiner's rejections are set forth in the Office Action, and are not being repeated here.

Claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, a hood, which covers a region of interaction between the radiation and the workpiece surface and comprises a vacuum extraction channel, the inlet opening of which lies opposite the workpiece surface in the operating position of the hood and can be connected to a vacuum extraction line. Such a hood is neither disclosed nor suggested by Ruckl. The Examiner relies upon either Beyer et al. or Klein for disclosing a vacuum extraction channel for vacuuming the interior air of the hood and alleges that it would have been obvious to use this feature with the device of Ruckl. Applicants respectfully disagree.

The hood covers a region of interaction between the radiation and the workpiece surface and comprises a vacuum extraction channel, the inlet opening of which lies opposite the workpiece surface in the operating position of the hood and can be connected to a vacuum extraction line. Ruckl discloses a device for machining thin walled hollow cylinders with a laser beam. The support bearing 21 is connected to a suction device to pull the hollow cylinder against the bearing to reduce vibrations of the cylinder surface (see column 3, lines 20-29). There is no need for a hood and certainly not one covering a region of interaction between the radiation and the workpiece.

The Examiner alleges that it would be obvious to use a hood connected to an extraction device with the device of Ruckl based on Beyer's or Klein's teaching of being able to remove debris. However, the suction device of Ruckl holds the cylinder against the bearing and there is no reason to use a hood with the suction device (extraction device) of Ruckl.

Because Ruckl and the invention use an extraction device for different purposes, the hood serves a function in the invention that is not necessary in Ruckl. Therefore, one of ordinary skill in the art would not modify Ruckl to have a hood, as claimed. The claims have been amended to further define the function of the U-shaped channel and the extraction means in removing abrasion and/or decomposition products captured during the engraving process.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

#### **Allowable Subject Matter**

The Examiner states that claims 8 and 10-24 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the early indication of allowable subject matter in this application. However, claims 8 and 10-24 have not been rewritten in independent form at this time, since it is believed that independent claim 1 from which these claims depend is allowable.

#### **Conclusion**

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider all presently outstanding rejections and that they be withdrawn. It is believed that a full and

complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and as such, the present application is in condition for allowance.

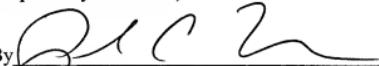
In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.

Should there by an outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Christopher J. McDonald, Registration No. 41,533, at the telephone number of the undersigned below to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Director is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge any fees required during the pendency of the above-identified application or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448.

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Respectfully submitted,

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